

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 IGA-01 AID-05 NIC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8211

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 0906

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFO PO EEC

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON PORTUGAL

A) STATE 22603

B) EC BRUSSELS 283

C) EC BRUSSELS 10045 (1974)

1. WE ALERTED HANNAY, SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET, TO THE GROWING US CONCERN ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION AND FOLLOWED UP IN MORE DETAIL WITH MISS NIELSEN, WHO HANDLES PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS IN THE COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS. HANNAY SAID THAT SOAMES SHARES OUR CONCERN AND HE WOULD SEE THAT MISS NIELSEN'S REPORT REACHES SOAMES PROMPTLY.

2. MISS NIELSEN SAID THAT SHE WAS ALSO DISTURBED OVER THE TURN OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. SHE SAID THAT SOAMES STILL PLANS TO BE IN LISBON ON FEBRUARY 12-13 (REFTEL B) AND SHE HOPED HIS VISIT WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SORT OF EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PORTUGUESE REGIME WHICH WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED (REFTEL C).

3. WE WENT OVER WITH HER THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE PROPOSED
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US AID PROGRAM TO PORTUGAL. SHE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE US

PROGRAM WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE CONCRETE FORM. THE EC, SHE SAID, WAS HAVING LESS SUCCESS. THE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON EC AID TO PORTUGAL WAS POSTPONED FROM JANUARY TO MID-FEBRUARY. ALTHOUGH GENERAL AREAS OF ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, TO DATE THE PORTUGUESE HAVE FAILED TO COME UP WITH ANY REALLY CONCRETE PROPOSALS. SHE NOTED THAT UNLIKE THE US, THE EC COULD ONLY ACT ON SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE BY RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND HAS NO BUDGETARY FUNDS OF ITS OWN TO FINANCE PROJECTS.

4. COMMENT: MISS NIELSEN'S VIEWS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE WE HAVE RECENTLY HEARD FROM OTHER COMMISSION OFFICIALS: (A) SERIOUS PREOCCUPATION ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL; (B) A SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AT THE COMMUNITY'S INABILITY TO MOVE BECAUSE IT MUST AWAIT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM THE PORTUGUESE. GREENWALD

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